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E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/16/2035  
TAGS: [PINR](#) [PREL](#) [SCUL](#) [GG](#)  
SUBJECT: (U) KUDOS AND FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR REPORTING  
ON THE GEORGIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH (C-RE9-02646)

REF: A. TBILISI 000081  
[1](#)B. TBILISI 002106  
[1](#)C. TBILISI 002269

Classified By: ELISSA G. PITTERLE, DIRECTOR, INR/OPS

[1](#)1. (S/NF) WASHINGTON ANALYSTS GREATLY APPRECIATE REFS  
PERTAINING TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GEORGIAN ORTHODOX  
CHURCH AND GEORGIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. WE WILL USE THIS  
REPORTING IN FUTURE ASSESSMENTS TO KEEP POLICYMAKERS INFORMED  
ON ANY KEY DEVELOPMENTS. WE WELCOME ANY FURTHER INFORMATION  
POST MAY HAVE ON THESE TOPICS, AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY  
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE SPECIFIC ISSUES OUTLINED BELOW,  
AS TIME AND RESOURCES PERMIT. MANY THANKS.

1) (S) HOW DO SENIOR AND MID-LEVEL GEORGIAN OFFICIALS VIEW  
THE GEORGIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH'S (GOC) ABILITY TO INFLUENCE  
GEORGIAN POLITICS? IN WHAT WAYS IS THE CHURCH'S POLITICAL  
INFLUENCE GROWING, DECREASING, OR STAYING THE SAME?

2) (S) HOW DO SENIOR AND MID-LEVEL GEORGIAN OFFICIALS VIEW  
THE GOC'S POSITION WITHIN SOCIETY? IN WHAT WAYS DOES THE  
CHURCH PLAY A POSITIVE AND/OR NEGATIVE ROLE?

3) (S) DO SENIOR AND MID-LEVEL GEORGIAN OFFICIALS VIEW THE  
CHURCH AS A THREAT TO THE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO PURSUE THE  
POLICIES IT CHOOSES? IF SO, IN WHAT AREAS?

4) (S) HOW DO SENIOR AND MID-LEVEL GEORGIAN OFFICIALS VIEW  
THE THREAT OF RUSSIAN INFLUENCE WITHIN THE GOC?

5) (S) WHAT IS THE DEGREE OF ANTI-US/ANTI-WESTERN RHETORIC  
COMING OUT OF THE GOC?

6) (S) ARE THERE ANY INDICATIONS THAT FACTIONS EXIST WITHIN  
THE GOC THAT ARE ANGLING TO MOVE THE CHURCH TOWARD A MORE  
CONSERVATIVE AND ANTI-US AGENDA? IF SO, HOW  
POWERFUL/INFLUENTIAL ARE THESE FACTIONS? WHAT IS THE  
GOVERNMENT DOING TO SHAPE THE DYNAMICS WITHIN THE GOC?

7) (S) DOES POST SEE ANY INDICATIONS THAT MIGHT SIGNAL HOW  
MUCH LONGER PATRIARCH ILIA II WILL LIVE?

8) (S) WHO WITHIN THE CHURCH IS PREDICTED TO SUCCEED  
PATRIARCH ILIA II? WHAT AFFECT, IF ANY, WOULD THIS HAVE ON  
GEORGIAN POLITICS?

[1](#)2. (U) PLEASE CITE C-RE9-02646 IN THE SUBJECT LINE OF  
REPORTING IN RESPONSE TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS.  
CLINTON